

REMARKS

The non-final Office Action was issued on pending claims 8-12. In this Response, claims 8-12 have been amended and no claims have been added or cancelled. Thus, claims 8-12 are pending in the application.

Applicant invites the Examiner to call Applicant's Representative to discuss any issues with this application.

Claim Objections

Claim 12 was objected to for informalities at page 2 of the Office Action. Claim 12 has been amended to correct the informalities without further limiting the claim or surrendering any subject matter. Thus, Applicant submits that the objection to claim 12 has been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112

At pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claims 8-12 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claims 8-12 have been amended to clarify the claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claims 8-12 merely clarify the claims and do not further limit the claims or surrender any subject matter.

As to claim 8, claim 8 positively recites the adjusting jig. Also, the position adjustment thickness and the first adjustment thickness have been clarified.

As to claim 10, claim 10 positively recites the adjusting jig. Also, the position adjustment thickness, the first adjustment thickness and the second adjustment thickness have been clarified.

Thus, Applicant submits that the §112 rejections should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections 35 USC §102

At pages 4-6 of the Office Action, claims 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC §102 (b) as being anticipated by Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The prior art discussed in the specification of the present application does not include or suggest a thickness adjuster for changing a position adjustment thickness used in adjusting relative position of the first holder and the second holder and a first adjustment thickness used in adjusting the biasing force of the first cushion. Conversely, Applicant's claims 8 and 10 call for such features. Further, claim 10 also calls for the features of a second adjustment thickness used in adjusting the biasing force of the second cushion which are also not found in the prior art discussed in the specification of the present application.

Even further, the adjusting jig defined in Applicant's claims includes the "thickness adjuster" which is not described, suggested or shown in the prior art discussed in Applicant's specification.

Thus, Applicant submits that the §102 rejection should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

At page 6 of the Office Action, claims 9, 11 and 12 are noted as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the notice of allowable claims.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the patent application is in condition for allowance and requests a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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